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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

-----X
CLAUDIA RUBIO and MARIA MACHADO, individually and
on behalf of all others similarly situated,

Plaintiffs,

**COLLECTIVE ACTION
COMPLAINT**

-against-

LEEFAM CLEANING, INC. d/b/a NU-CLEAR CLEANERS and
WILSON LEE, as individuals,

JURY TRIAL
DEMANDED

Defendants.

-----X

1. Plaintiffs, **CLAUDIA RUBIO and MARIA MACHADO, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated**, (hereinafter referred to as "Plaintiffs"), by their attorneys at Helen F. Dalton & Associates, P.C., allege, upon personal knowledge as to themselves and upon information and belief as to other matters, as follows:

PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

2. Plaintiffs, **CLAUDIA RUBIO and MARIA MACHADO, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated**, through undersigned counsel, bring this action against **LEEFAM CLEANING, INC. d/b/a NU-CLEAR CLEANERS and WILSON LEE, as individuals**, (hereinafter referred to as "Defendants"), to recover damages for egregious violations of state and federal wage and hour laws arising out of Plaintiffs' employment at LEEFAM CLEANING, INC. d/b/a NU-CLEAR CLEANERS located at 172 Middle Neck Road Great Neck, NY 11021.
3. As a result of the violations of Federal and New York State labor laws delineated below, Plaintiffs seek compensatory damages and liquidated damages in an amount

exceeding \$100,000.00. Plaintiffs also seek interest, attorneys' fees, costs, and all other legal and equitable remedies this Court deems appropriate.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

4. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction over Plaintiffs' federal claims pursuant to the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. §216 and 28 U.S.C. §1331.
5. This Court has supplemental jurisdiction over Plaintiffs' state law claims pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1337.
6. Venue is proper in the EASTERN District of New York pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1331(b) because a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to the claims occurred in this district.
7. This Court is empowered to issue a declaratory judgment pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§2201 & 2202.

THE PARTIES

8. Plaintiff CLAUDIA RUBIO, residing at Queens, NY, was employed from in or around May 2007 to in or around July 2021 by Defendants at LEEFAM CLEANING, INC. d/b/a NU-CLEAR CLEANERS located at 172 Middle Neck Road Great Neck, NY 11021.
9. Plaintiff MARIA MACHADO, residing at Queens, NY, was employed from in or around October 2002 to in or around July 2021 by Defendants at LEEFAM CLEANING, INC. d/b/a NU-CLEAR CLEANERS located at 172 Middle Neck Road Great Neck, NY 11021.
10. Defendant, LEEFAM CLEANING, INC. d/b/a NU-CLEAR CLEANERS is a corporation organized under the laws of New York.
11. Defendant, LEEFAM CLEANING, INC. d/b/a NU-CLEAR CLEANERS is a corporation authorized to do business under the laws of New York.
12. Upon information and belief, Defendant, LEEFAM CLEANING, INC. d/b/a NU-CLEAR CLEANERS is a corporation organized under the laws of New York with a principal executive office at 172 Middle Neck Road Great Neck, NY 11021.
13. Upon information and belief, Defendant WILSON LEE owns and operates LEEFAM CLEANING, INC. d/b/a NU-CLEAR CLEANERS.

14. Upon information and belief, Defendant WILSON LEE is an agent of LEEFAM CLEANING, INC. d/b/a NU-CLEAR CLEANERS.
15. Defendant WILSON LEE has power over personnel decisions at LEEFAM CLEANING, INC. d/b/a NU-CLEAR CLEANERS.
16. Upon information and belief, Defendant WILSON LEE has power over payroll decisions at LEEFAM CLEANING, INC. d/b/a NU-CLEAR CLEANERS.
17. Defendant WILSON LEE has the power to hire and fire employees, including the Plaintiffs, at LEEFAM CLEANING, INC. d/b/a NU-CLEAR CLEANERS., establish and pay their wages, set their work schedule, and maintains their employment records.
18. During all relevant times herein, Defendant WILSON LEE was Plaintiffs' employer within the meaning of the FLSA and NYLL.
19. On information and belief, LEEFAM CLEANING, INC. d/b/a NU-CLEAR CLEANERS., is at present and has been at all times relevant to the allegation in the complaint, an enterprise engaged in interstate commerce within the meaning of the FLSA in that the entity (i) has had employees engaged in commerce or in the production of goods for commerce, and handle, sell or otherwise work on goods or material that have been moved in or produced for commerce by any person: and (ii) has had an annual gross volume of sales of not less than \$500,000.00.

RELEVANT STATUTORY PERIOD FOR ALL PLAINTIFFS

14. At the time of the filing of this complaint, the relevant statutory period pursuant to the NYLL and FLSA is from in or around May 2015 until in or around July 2021. (“Relevant Statutory Period”).

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

CLAUDIA RUBIO

15. Plaintiff CLAUDIA RUBIO was employed by Defendants at LEEFAM CLEANING, INC. d/b/a NU-CLEAR CLEANERS, from in or around May 2007 until in or around July 2021.
16. During Plaintiff CLAUDIA RUBIO'S employment by Defendants at LEEFAM CLEANING, INC. d/b/a NU-CLEAR CLEANERS, Plaintiff's primary duties were as

a cleaner, and performing other miscellaneous duties, during the Relevant Statutory Period.

17. Plaintiff CLAUDIA RUBIO was paid by Defendants:
 - i. approximately \$10.00 per hour from in or around September 2015 until in or around July 2021.
18. Plaintiff CLAUDIA RUBIO worked approximately seventy-eight (78) hours or more hours per week for Defendants, during the Relevant Statutory Period.
19. Therefore, Defendants failed to pay Plaintiff CLAUDIA RUBIO the legally prescribed minimum wage for her hours worked from in or around December 2017 until in or around January 2021, a blatant violation of the minimum wage provisions contained in the FLSA and NYLL.
20. Additionally, although Plaintiff CLAUDIA RUBIO worked approximately seventy-eight (78) or more hours per week during her employment by Defendants, during the Relevant Statutory Period, Defendants did not pay Plaintiff time and a half (1.5) for hours worked over forty (40), a blatant violation of the overtime provisions contained in the FLSA and NYLL.
21. Furthermore, Plaintiff CLAUDIA RUBIO worked approximately thirteen (13) or more hours per day, six (6) days a week during the Relevant Statutory Period, Defendants did not pay Plaintiff an extra hour at the legally prescribed minimum wage for each day worked over ten (10) hours, a blatant violation of the spread of hours provisions contained in the NYLL.

MARIA MACHADO

22. Plaintiff MARIA MACHADO was employed by Defendants at LEEFAM CLEANING, INC. d/b/a NU-CLEAR CLEANERS, from in or around October 2002 until in or around July 2021.
23. During Plaintiff MARIA MACHADO'S employment by Defendants at LEEFAM CLEANING, INC. d/b/a NU-CLEAR CLEANERS, Plaintiff's primary duties were as a cleaner, and performing other miscellaneous duties.
24. During the Relevant Statutory Period, Plaintiff MARIA MACHADO was paid by Defendants:

- ii. approximately \$10.00 per hour from in or around September 2015 until in or around July 2021.
- 25. Plaintiff MARIA MACHADO worked approximately seventy-eight (78) hours or more hours per week for Defendants, during the Relevant Statutory Period.
- 26. Therefore, Defendants failed to pay Plaintiff MARIA MACHADO the legally prescribed minimum wage for her hours worked from in or around December 2017 until in or around January 2021, a blatant violation of the minimum wage provisions contained in the FLSA and NYLL.
- 27. Additionally, although Plaintiff MARIA MACHADO worked approximately seventy-eight (78) or more hours per week during her employment by Defendants, during the Relevant Statutory Period, Defendants did not pay Plaintiff time and a half (1.5) for hours worked over forty (40), a blatant violation of the overtime provisions contained in the FLSA and NYLL.
- 28. Furthermore, Plaintiff MARIA MACHADO worked approximately thirteen (13) or more hours per day, six (6) days a week during the Relevant Statutory Period, Defendants did not pay Plaintiff an extra hour at the legally prescribed minimum wage for each day worked over ten (10) hours, a blatant violation of the spread of hours provisions contained in the NYLL.

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS FOR ALL PLAINTIFFS

- 29. Upon information and belief, Defendants willfully failed to post notices of the minimum wage and overtime wage requirements in a conspicuous place at the location of their employment as required by both the NYLL and the FLSA.
- 30. Upon information and belief, Defendants willfully failed to keep accurate payroll records as required by both NYLL and the FLSA.
- 31. As a result of these violations of Federal and New York State labor laws, Plaintiff seeks compensatory damages and liquidated damages in an amount exceeding \$100,000.00. Plaintiff also seeks interest, attorneys' fees, costs, and all other legal and equitable remedies this Court deems appropriate.

COLLECTIVE ACTION ALLEGATIONS

32. Plaintiffs bring this action on behalf of themselves and other employees similarly situated as authorized under the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. § 216(b). The employees similarly situated are the collective class.
33. Collective Class: All persons who are or have been employed by the Defendants as cleaners, or other similarly titled personnel with substantially similar job requirements and pay provisions, who were performing the same sort of functions for Defendants, other than the executive and management positions, who have been subject to Defendants' common practices, policies, programs, procedures, protocols and plans including willfully failing and refusing to pay required overtime wage compensation.
34. Upon information and belief, Defendants employed between 25-50 employees within the past three years subjected to similar payment structures.
35. Upon information and belief, Defendants suffered and permitted Plaintiffs and the Collective Class to work more than forty hours per week without appropriate overtime compensation.
36. Defendants' unlawful conduct has been widespread, repeated, and consistent.
37. Upon information and belief, Defendant had knowledge that Plaintiffs and the Collective Class performed work requiring overtime pay.
38. Defendants' conduct as set forth in this Complaint, was willful and in bad faith, and has caused significant damages to Plaintiffs and the Collective Class.
39. Defendants are liable under the FLSA for failing to properly compensate Plaintiffs and the Collective Class, and as such, notice should be sent to the Collective Class. There are numerous similarly situated current and former employees of Defendants who have been denied overtime pay in violation of the FLSA and NYLL, who would benefit from the issuance of a Court-supervised notice of the present lawsuit, and the opportunity to join the present lawsuit. Those similarly situated employees are known to Defendants and are readily identifiable through Defendants' records.
40. The questions of law and fact common to the putative class predominate over any questions affecting only individual members.
41. The claims of Plaintiffs are typical of the claims of the putative class.

42. Plaintiffs and their counsel will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the putative class.
43. A collective action is superior to other available methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of this controversy.

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

Overtime Wages Under The Fair Labor Standards Act

44. Plaintiffs re-allege and incorporate by reference all allegations in all preceding paragraphs.
45. Plaintiffs have consented in writing to be a party to this action, pursuant to 29 U.S.C. §216(b).
46. At all times relevant to this action, Plaintiffs were engaged in commerce or the production of goods for commerce within the meaning of 29 U.S.C. §§206(a) and 207(a).
47. At all times relevant to this action, Defendants were employers engaged in commerce or the production of goods for commerce within the meaning of 29 U.S.C. §§206(a) and 207(a).
48. Defendants willfully failed to pay Plaintiffs' overtime wages for hours worked in excess of forty (40) hours per week at a wage rate of one and a half (1.5) times the regular wage, to which Plaintiffs were entitled under 29 U.S.C. §§206(a) in violation of 29 U.S.C. §207(a)(1).
49. Defendants' violations of the FLSA as described in this Complaint have been willful and intentional. Defendants have not made a good effort to comply with the FLSA with respect to the compensation of the Plaintiffs.
50. Due to Defendants' FLSA violations, Plaintiffs are entitled to recover from Defendants, jointly and severally, their unpaid wages and an equal amount in the form of liquidated damages, as well as reasonable attorneys' fees and costs of the action, including interest, pursuant to the FLSA, specifically 29 U.S.C. §216(b).

SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION

Overtime Wages Under New York Labor Law

51. Plaintiffs re-allege and incorporate by reference all allegations in all preceding paragraphs.

52. At all times relevant to this action, Plaintiffs were employed by Defendants within the meaning of New York Labor Law §§2 and 651.
53. Defendants failed to pay Plaintiffs' overtime wages for hours worked in excess of forty hours per week at a wage rate of one and a half (1.5) times the regular wage to which Plaintiffs were entitled under New York Labor Law §652, in violation of 12 N.Y.C.R.R. 137-1.3.
54. Due to Defendants' New York Labor Law violations, Plaintiffs are entitled to recover from Defendants, jointly and severally, their unpaid overtime wages and an amount equal to their unpaid overtime wages in the form of liquidated damages, as well as reasonable attorneys' fees and costs of the action, including interest in accordance with NY Labor Law §198(1-a).

THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION
Minimum Wages Under The Fair Labor Standards Act

55. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference all allegations in all preceding paragraphs.
56. Plaintiff has consented in writing to be a party to this action, pursuant to 29 U.S.C. §216(b).
57. At all times relevant to this action, Plaintiff was engaged in commerce or the production of services and goods for commerce within the meaning of 29 U.S.C. §§206(a) and 207(a).
58. At all times relevant to this action, Defendants were employers engaged in commerce or the production of goods for commerce within the meaning of 29 U.S.C. §§206(a) and 207(a).
59. Defendants willfully failed to pay Plaintiff a minimum wage in accordance with 29 U.S.C. §§201, 202 and 203.
60. Defendants' violations of the FLSA, as described in this Complaint have been willful and intentional.
61. Defendants have not made a good faith effort to comply with the FLSA with respect to the Plaintiff's compensation.
62. Due to Defendants' FLSA violations, Plaintiff is entitled to recover from Defendants, jointly and severally, his unpaid minimum wages and an equal amount in the form of

liquidated damages, as well as reasonable attorneys' fees and costs of the action including interest, pursuant to the FLSA, specifically 29 U.S.C. §216(b).

FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION

Minimum Wages Under New York Labor Law

63. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference all allegations in all preceding paragraphs.
64. At all times relevant to this action, Plaintiff was employed by Defendants within the meaning of NYLL §§2 and 651.
65. At all times relevant to this action, Defendants were employers within the meaning of NYLL.
66. Defendants failed to record, credit or compensate Plaintiff the applicable minimum hourly wage, in violation of the New York Minimum Wage Act, specifically NYLL §652.
67. Defendants also failed to pay Plaintiff the required minimum wage, which Plaintiff was entitled under NYLL §652, in violation of 12 N. Y. C. R. R. 137-1.3.
68. Due to Defendants' NYLL violations, Plaintiff is entitled to recover from Defendants, jointly and severally, his unpaid minimum wages and an amount equal to their unpaid minimum wages in the form of liquidated damages, as well as reasonable attorneys' fees and costs of the action, including interest in accordance with NYLL §198 (1-a).

FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION

Spread of Hours Compensation Under New York Labor Law

69. Plaintiffs re-allege and incorporate by reference all allegations in all preceding paragraphs.
70. Defendants willfully violated Plaintiffs' rights by failing to pay Plaintiffs an additional hour of pay at minimum wage for each day worked more than ten (10) hours, in violation of the New York Minimum Wage Act and its implementing regulations. N.Y. Labor Law §§ 650 *et seq.*; 12 N.Y. C. R. R. § 142-2.4
71. Due to Defendants' New York Labor Law violations, Plaintiffs are entitled to recover from Defendants his unpaid spread of hour compensation, reasonable attorneys' fees, and costs of the action, pursuant to N. Y. Labor Law § 663 (1).

SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION

Violation of the Notice and Recordkeeping Requirements of the New York Labor Law

72. Plaintiffs re-allege and incorporate by reference all allegations in all preceding paragraphs.
73. Defendants failed to provide Plaintiffs with a written notice, in English and in Spanish (Plaintiffs' primary language), of their rate of pay, regular pay day, and such other information as required by NYLL §195(1).
74. Defendants are liable to Plaintiffs in the amount of \$5,000.00 per Plaintiff, together with costs and attorneys' fees.

SEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION

Violation of the Wage Statement Requirements of the New York Labor Law

75. Plaintiffs re-allege and incorporate by reference all allegations in all preceding paragraphs.
76. Defendants failed to provide Plaintiffs with wage statements upon each payment of wages, as required by NYLL §195(3)
77. Defendants are liable to Plaintiffs in the amount of \$5,000.00 per Plaintiff, together with costs and attorneys' fees.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

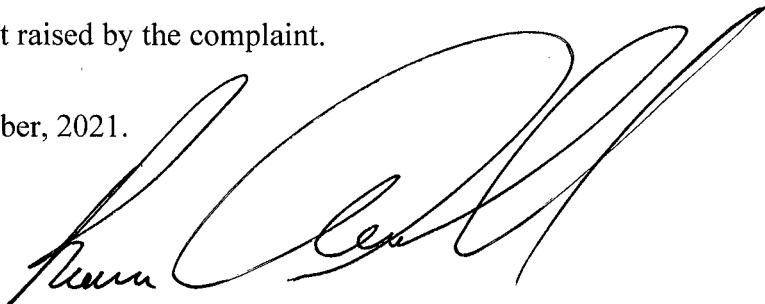
Wherefore, Plaintiffs respectfully request that judgment be granted:

- a. Declaring Defendants' conduct complained herein to be in violation of the Plaintiffs' rights under the FLSA, the New York Labor Law, and its regulations;
- b. Awarding Plaintiffs unpaid overtime wages;
- c. Awarding Plaintiff unpaid minimum wages;
- d. Awarding Plaintiffs unpaid spread of hours compensation;
- e. Awarding Plaintiffs liquidated damages pursuant to 29 U.S.C. §216 and New York Labor Law §§198(1-a), 663(1);
- f. Awarding Plaintiffs prejudgment and post-judgment interest;
- g. Awarding Plaintiffs the costs of this action together with reasonable attorneys' fees; and
- h. Awarding such and further relief as this court deems necessary and proper.

DEMAND FOR TRIAL BY JURY

Pursuant to Rule 38(b) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, Plaintiffs demand a trial by jury on all questions of fact raised by the complaint.

Dated: This 4th day of October, 2021.



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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

CLAUDIA RUBIO and MARIA MACHADO, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated,

Plaintiffs,

-against-

LEEFAM CLEANING, INC. d/b/a NU-CLEAR CLEANERS and WILSON LEE, as individuals,

Defendants.

SUMMONS & COMPLAINT

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